CHAPTER-V

CASE STUDIES

5.1 Introduction

The male to female transgender community is subjected to social exclusion, educational deprivation, economic backwardness, political marginalization and other constraints. They do not identify themselves with their physical sex but instead consider themselves and live their lives as members of the opposite sex. Male to female transgenders identify and live as women but have castrated themselves in order to become feminized. Recently, they have gained the recognition as ‘third gender’ by the Supreme Court of India. Most of them are subjected to several inconveniences, human rights violations and other deprivations. Case analysis is one of the tested and tried methods of primary data collection in the field of social sciences including Anthropology. The researcher interviewed about 10 male to female transgenders in different parts of Karnataka and carried out systematic case analysis. In this chapter select cases are presented with a view to understand the ground realities and various discriminatory tendencies faced by this community. Inferences are drawn on the basis of case analysis and presented in this chapter.
5.2 PRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES

5.2.1. Bhagya

Bhagya is 26 years old male to female transsexual who hails from Hassan city. This person belongs to Vokkaliga community which is a backward community in Karnataka state. Bhagya has studied up to 7th standard and could not pursue higher education due to poverty. Bhagya discontinued her studies for 7th standard, because she was not interested in studies and also boys were abusing her for the female behavior. She used to be with girls most of the time. She did not face any problem from teachers. She stayed at home for about one and half years after discontinuing her studies. Her father is a farmer. She has three sisters and one brother. All are married. She used to hide her female behavior attitude at home. She used to visit Bangalore frequently and now also she is staying in her sister’s house. Her parents were depressed for her changes. Even now she visits her native often to see her parents. In Bangalore city, she came in touch with male to female transgenders who took her to Hamam. She stayed with the Hamam for about three months and agreed for sexual reassignment surgery. She could not undergo the laser treatment due to economic constraints but took the injections for the breast improvement. She has not faced any social problem due to the consumption of medicines. She is working in SAMARA Organisation and earns about Rs. 3,500/- per month through begging. She was also subjected to police atrocity since she depended on sex work for day to day livelihood. She has also experienced ill treatment in the hospitals due to her transsexuality. She pleads for grant of ration card, pension, house site and other fundamental necessities of life.
5.2.2 Anu

Anu is 24 years old male to female transsexual who hails from Mysore city. This person belongs to Muslim community which is a backward community in Karnataka state. She has studied up to 5th standard and was ill treated by her friends due to her female attitude. She could not study further and was engaged in domestic work. Her parents and brother trashed her in belt, chappals and other materials. She had to leave the home due to ill treatment by the family members. Once, one lady took her to transgender house in RPC layout. They told Anu to work in the Hamam. She worked there for three months and changed her dress pattern. She also joined the SANGAMA organization for her day to day survival. Presently she is staying with her mother. Anu has also undergone Castration surgery and was subjected to all rituals. She was given modern medical amenities. But she had to suffer a lot after the operation due to non-availability of funds and moral support. She had to take injection and pain killers to overcome the pain. She could not make use of the cosmetic surgery for breast improvement due to the financial problem. She uses ointment given by her grandmother, told her to massage for the breast improvement. She has not taken the medicines for breast improvement because of the side effects. She was also subjected to ill treatment by her senior. She was very depressed because even now she faces several disadvantages due to transsexuality. She is earning Rs. 5,000/- and after deduction she gets around Rs. 4,500/- per month. She has to pay Rs.3000/- for house rent and struggles for her existence due to poverty and unemployment. She primarily relies upon sex work at lodges, park or in hamam. She is also aware of the safe sex
methods. She is subjected to harassments in public places like temples and cinema theatres. The police also took her for granted when she was drunken status and took away her purse, mobile and treated very badly. She had to depend on sex work for her existence afterwards. She is also threatened by the anti social elements for commission and other petty benefits.
5.2.3 Nandini

Nandini is 20 years old male to female transsexual, she hails from Santhemarahalli, Chamarajanagar district. She is belongs to Uppara community which is a backward community in Karnataka state. She has studied upto 5th standard and stayed with her grandparents in the native place. Her father is a mason and mother works as a laborer. She used to spend more time in the accompany of ladies since she had female outlook and attitude. She came in contact with Nisha and Nagina who took her away from the village and put her in the SANGAMA organisation, Bangalore. She had undergone sex change castration surgery, which cost about Rs.1,50,000/-. She mobilized funds on her own by begging, under availed the benefit of breast improvement surgery. She also took injections for breast improvement. She is presently working in agriculture sector as a landless laborer. She also earns her bread and butter through sex work in visiting Bangalore city. She is also subjected to police harassments like other transsexuals. She wishes to lead a normal life by obtaining loan, subsidy and other benefits from the government.
5.2.4 Sonia

Sonia is 18 years old male to female transsexual who is from Bangalore city. This person belongs to Scheduled Caste which is a downtrodden community in Karnataka state. She has studied up to matriculation. Her father is a painter and mother works in agarbhati factory. She has got three elder sisters, two sisters are married. She was subjected to domestic harassments due to transsexuality and thrown out of the family mercilessly. She also joined Sangama in Bangalore. She was going for the begging since 5 years and she is staying in a rented house. She has also undergone sex change castration surgery in Bangalore by mobilizing funds from begging, including sex work.
5.2.5 Kaveri

Kaveri is 26 years old male to female transsexual who hails from Bangalore city. This person belongs to Muslim community which is socially and economically backward community in Karnataka state. She has studied up to 4\textsuperscript{th} standard and gave up education due to the problems of poverty and transgender. She was ill treated by her parents and family members due to her feminine behavior. Her classmates also ill treated her in the school. She was also abused by the people. She had to leave home under the most inconvenient circumstances. She joined the transgender community in Mysore through her friend when she was 18 years old. She had undergone sex change castration surgery in Bangalore and took injection for breast improvement. She has not undergone laser treatment due to economic backwardness. She is practicing begging (Basti) and earning about Rs.300-400/- every day. She stays alone in rented house and pays the rent of about Rs.2500/- per month. She has stayed in the rented house after convincing the owner of the house about her state of life. She earns the bread and butter mainly through sex work by following safe sex methods which benefits both the parties. She is also subjected to social exclusion and harassment for being a transsexual. She wishes to switch over to business by availing the loan and subsidy from the bank and cooperative society. She also desires to have basic civic facilities such as ration card, voters I.D card and Aadhar card.
5.2.6 Reshma

Reshma is 28 years old, male to female transsexual who hails from Bangalore city. This person belongs to Muslim community. She has studied up to 7th standard. Her father died at an early age and her mother is a beedi making worker. She had to incur the wrath of the family members. She had to leave the family and join the Sangama organisation in Bangalore for her safety. She also availed the benefit of sex change castration surgery and earned the bread and butter through sex work in Bangalore. She is fortunate enough to earn about Rs. 20,000/- per month through sex work. Her family members accepted the ground reality and agreed to continue the affinity. She is now staying with her parents and two of her niece. She is taking care of them all and all the responsibilities of whole family. Her family members also remain thankful to her for taking care of them very well. She also entered into a loving relationship with a person and spent about 4 years in his company. She is betrayed by him. She is living independently but maintains good rapport with the family members. She is also subjected to harassment by the police and other anti-social elements. She wants ration card, I.D.card and other benefits from the government in order to live a normal life like other citizens of the society.
Salma is 28 years old, male to female transsexual who hails from Bangalore city. She is belongs to Muslim community. She went to the primary school nearby home and discontinued her education on account of poverty and absence of encouragement by the family members. She stayed at home for about 6 years and left home due to non-acceptance of her transsexuality by the parents. She has undergone sex reassignment surgery in Andhra Pradesh by mobilizing the funds on her own initiatives. She also pursued sex work for her survival and development. She does not have major health hazards but consumes pan-parag, alcohol. She is also excluded from the society because of the system and sex based prejudices. She wishes to lead a normal life by availing government facilities and civic amenities.
5.2.8 Shanta

The researcher is seen interviewing Shanta

Shanta is 35 years old, male to female transsexual who hails from Chikmagalore. She belongs to Achar community, which is socially and economically backward community in Karnataka state. She has studied up to 3rd standard and gave up education mainly due to financial problems at home. She was ill treated by the family members due to her sexual attitude and behavior. The neighbors also ill treated her and forced her to leave home without any hopes. She has undergone sex change castration surgery at the age of 32 and spent about Rs.70000/-. She also received breast development treatment cosmetic surgery by going over to the modern doctors. She presently earns about Rs.10,000/- per month through sex work. She is also consuming alcohol to forget the miseries of a transsexual in modern society. She has experienced harassments from the police and other anti-social elements. She expects the government and society to treat the transsexuals with respect. She is expecting modern facilities like ration card, right to vote, election I.D. card, house site, Bank account facility and others. Doctors should also treat them as the human beings instead of seeing them only as sex workers.
5.2.9 Sadha

Sadha is 27 years old, male to female transsexual who hails from Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu. This person belongs to Goundar community. She has studied up to 5th standard and gave up education due to transgender and harassments by the family members, friends and neighbors. She had to leave home under most difficult circumstances and proceeded to Bangalore in search of livelihood. She had to stay at Cubbon Park for about 6 years and depended on sex work for her survival in the society. She had undergone sex reassignment at the age of 19 in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh with the help of transsexual friends. She has also undergone penectomy, breast development treatments. She is presently earning about Rs.1000/- daily through sex work. She has also purchased a house site in Bangalore city. She mainly depends on the support of transsexuals. She also maintains good relationship with the family members since she has gained economic independence over a period of time. She is also aware of safe sex methods. She is friendly with the police, clients and fellow citizens. She has not encountered any major instances of atrocities and harassments. She wishes to lead a normal life by obtaining community support and government patronage.
5.2.10 Shanthala

Shanthala is 27 years old, male to female transsexual who hails from Utharahalli, Bangalore city. This person belongs to Vokkaliga community. She has studied up to 7th standard. She was ill treated by the family members, neighbours and others for her attitude towards sexuality and life. The family members did not come forward to extend financial and moral support. She had to leave education and enter into sex work. She too has undergone sex change castration surgery with great difficulties by mobilizing funds through sex work, begging and other means. She is presently staying in the company of fellow transsexuals and earning livelihood through sex work. She has experienced harassments from various quarters including the police. She is economically very backward and struggles for existence. She also needs support from family, community and government in order to live a normal life.
5.3 Findings of the case analysis

The case analysis carried out by the researcher has yielded certain inferences which are as follows.

A preponderance of the male to female transsexuals belonged to the age group of 20-40 years and constituted the younger age group, socially and economically backward sections of the society, economically below the poverty line families, male to female transsexuals experienced domestic violence and harassment on account of transsexuality, could not study beyond matriculation, majority of the male to female transsexuals left their homes mainly because of exclusion by the society, came in contact with fellow transsexuals and found shelter in the cities and townships. Transsexuals obtained the benefit of sex reassignment surgery by mobilizing funds on their own initiatives, modern treatment for the breast improvement, lived away from home and relied upon sex work for their sustenance.

A best part of the male to female transsexuals helped experienced atrocities from the police, anti-social elements and others, they were denied of civic identities, amenities and facilities.

An occurrence of the male to female transsexuals wanted to live a normal life by obtaining financial assistance and moral support from the government and society, male to female transsexuals wanted to live with social dignity and economic independence.

5.4 Summary

The Constitution of India guarantees equal rights, opportunities and benefits to all sections of the society regardless of gender and other factors. Experience reveals that leading a life as a transgender is far from easy because such people can be neither categorized as male nor female and this deviation is unacceptable to the mankind in India and abroad. The male to female transsexuals are struggling for their existence due to several disadvantages. There are various stakeholders of empowerment of people in modern society. The transgender people suffer from great harm by attitudes of intolerance and hatred toward diverse gender expression. They have also been at the aggrieved end of financial extortion by the police in exchange for not revealing their identities to the society. The case analysis reveals that several reforms are needed in the existing laws for the realization of equal rights for the transgender community in Karnataka state. The government and other stakeholders should develop a sense of conscience and empathy towards the sexual minorities and prepare grounds for making transgender community free from violence, discrimination, exploitation and other oppressive features at all levels of the modern society.